

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for the early determination of the risk of mortality of patients in intensive care units or emergency care units during which the concentration of Cu/Zn superoxide dismutase (Cu/Zn SOD) in a serum sample or plasma sample of the patient is selectively determined, and quantitatively or semi-quantitatively measured concentrations, which exceed a predetermined threshold value are correlated with a high risk of mortality.